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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No.: 06478.1464

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

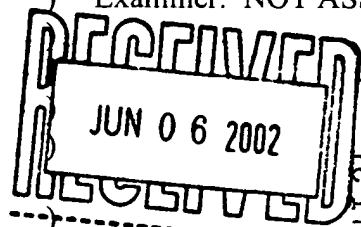
Hubert METZNER et al.

Application No.: 10/052,469

Filed: January 23, 2002

For: THE USE OF A HYDROGEN PEROXIDE
PLASMA STERILIZATION METHOD
FOR THE MILD STERILIZATION OF
TEMPERATURE-SENSITIVE PRODUCTS

)
)
) Group Art Unit: 1744
)
) Examiner: NOT ASSIGNED



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Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

The documents listed in this Information Disclosure Statement were first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office in a counterpart foreign application.

Copies of the listed documents are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

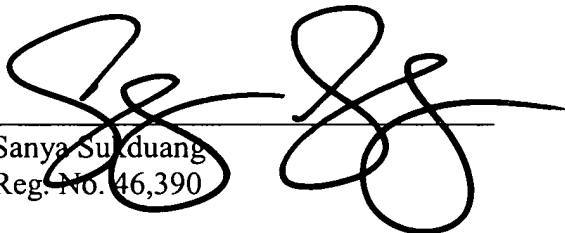
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 30, 2002

By:


Sanya Sukduang
Reg. No. 46,390

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com